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| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><br>(Not for submission under 37 CFR 1.99) | Application Number     | 10/588,648        |
|  | Confirmation Number    | 9259              |
|  | Filing Date            | August 7, 2006    |
|  | First Named Inventor   | Ryo SAKURAI       |
|  | Art Unit               | 2629              |
|  | Examiner Name          | Richard A. HJERPE |
|  | Attorney Docket Number | Q96393            |

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| Examiner Initials* | Cite No | Patent Number | Kind Code <sup>1</sup> | Issue Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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| U.S. PATENT APPLICATION PUBLICATIONS |         |                    |                        |                  |   |   |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |         |                                      |                           |                        |                  |   |   |                |
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| Examiner Initials*       | Cite No | Foreign Document Number <sup>3</sup> | Country Code <sup>2</sup> | Kind Code <sup>4</sup> | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T <sup>5</sup> |
|                          | 1       | 2003-167278                          | JP                        | A                      | 2003-06-13       | Bridgestone Corp.                               |   | Abstract       |

| NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |         |  |                |
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|                                 | 1       | Chinese Office Action dated June 6, 2008   | N              |

| EXAMINER SIGNATURE |  |                 |  |
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| Examiner Signature |  | Date Considered |  |

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